

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa)
CalWORKs Program Guide Special Notice**

CalWORKs COLA Increase To The MBSAC And IIK Levels

Number

16-04

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Issue Date:

June 16, 2016

Effective Date:

July 1, 2016

Background:

CalWORKs Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) and Income In-Kind (IIK) levels are adjusted annually to reflect increases or decreases in the Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Policy:

This year the adjustments include a **2.76 percent** increase to the MBSAC and IIK levels.

Procedure:

Take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied, if the sole reason for denial was failure to pass the applicant financial eligibility income test due to the MBSAC or IIK amounts used.

MBSAC Levels

Use the new MBSAC levels to determine applicant financial eligibility for those families who apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2016.

Reminder

If the Assistance Unit (AU) is not financially eligible for the application month of June 2016, but if the AU will become financially eligible in July 2016, do another applicant test using the second month's reasonably anticipated income. If eligible, approve the case effective the first of July 2016.

Reference: CPG 44-100.K

Income In-Kind (IIK) Levels

Review continuing cases with IIK. If the IIK amounts under each item of need being used on the case are:

- The **previous standard values**, enter the new values manually, run EDBC, and authorize.
- The **actual values**, no further action is required, as CalWIN will count the lower amounts between the actual and the new standard values.

For current recipients, evaluate and take action to prospectively apply the new IIK amounts. The COLA change is a county-initiated mid-period action therefore the change will be made as soon as timely and adequate notice is provided.

Automation Impact:

The reference tables in CalWIN, to reflect the new MBSAC level changes (07/16) and IIK values (07/16), will be updated in the near future.

As a result two lists will identify cases potentially impacted with the reference table updates:

- MBSAC List – This list includes all CalWORKs cases that were denied in May and June 2016 because of over MBSAC limit.

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- **IIK List** – This list includes all CalWORKs cases with IIK. With the 2.76% increase, there's a potential decrease in CalWORKs benefits and/or increase in CalFresh benefits.

These two Management Reports will be emailed to all FRCs, as soon as they become available. Further instructions will be included in the email.

Client Correspondence:

None.

Impacts:

- **Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA) and Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP)**
These instructions for the MBSAC and IIK changes also apply to RCA, ECA and TCVAP applicants and recipients.
- **CalFresh Program**
With the 2.76 percent increase in IIK, there is a potential decrease in CalWORKs benefits and/or increase in CalFresh benefits. Review the impacted cases and take action as needed.
- **CalWORKs Assistance Standards Chart**
The CalWORKs Assistance Standards Chart, with the new MBSAC and IIK levels, has been updated and loaded to the CPG online (CPG 45-200).
- **Scratch Budget**
The CalWORKs/CalFresh Scratch Budget will be updated soon with the new MBSAC levels and will be placed in the ENTERPRISE\QR Excel Spreadsheet folder on the shared "S" drive.

Quality Control (QC):

Effective with July 2016 sample month reviews, QC will cite the appropriate error when regulations are not applied or are applied incorrectly.

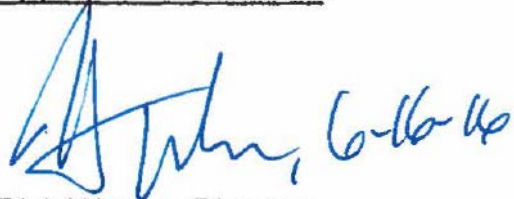
References:

ACL 16-47

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by June 30, 2017.

Approval for Release:



Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations